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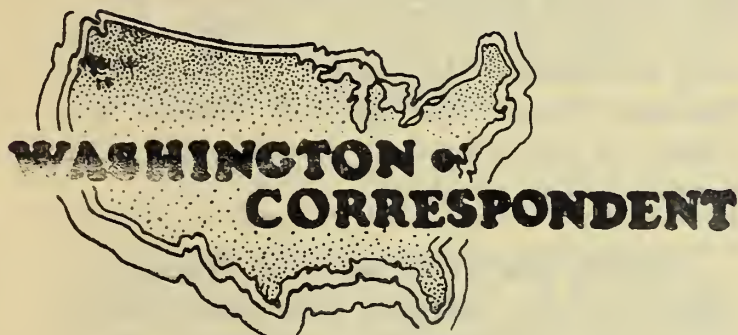
SERVICE

NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

February 20, 1941

No. 10



Lately, in the Washington office, there has been more than a normal amount of thinking about the cash returns and social gains from soil conservation work.

The first job of the Soil Conservation Service, of course, has been the physical job of saving soil. That is still the first job. But you can't very well save productive soil without at the same time benefiting those who till the soil. Benefits go also to the whole surrounding community; they are social, economic and aesthetic. However, there has been so much physical soil-saving and water-saving work to do, we haven't had time to measure, fully, these other benefits.

A considerable number here apparently believe that although the physical job remains stupendous, the time has now come to devote more thought to an appraisal of benefits from the work already done.

It is axiomatic in the Service, as everyone knows, that soil conservation is worthwhile only insofar as it benefits people. And we believe that any sound soil-saving work done on good farming land is certain to bring beneficial results to the people who are trying to make a living on the land.

Many people agree with this. Some farmers, however, continue to be honest

doubters of the dollars-and-cents worth of conservation work. They don't say it doesn't pay; they simply want proof that it does. They're from Missouri as far as conservation is concerned, and want to be shown.

So when the town of Grand Haven, Michigan, decides to call on its entire population to participate with the SCS and the CCC in a tree-planting day in order to protect the town harbor against an advancing sand dune; when the conservation farmers in a watershed obtain consistently better yields and better incomes than non-conservation farmers; when there is a noticeable drop in relief rolls in a community coincident with wide-spread adoption of conservation farm management practices; when there is a noticeable improvement in the tenancy situation in a community coincident with the adoption of a soil conservation program; and when water facilities or land purchase or some other phase of the Soil Conservation Service program is brought to bear on the problem of some agricultural community, there seems to be good reason for recording as accurately as possible the practical facts in the case.

Farmers who are thinking about voting for or against a district, Congressmen who are thinking about appropriations, farm leaders who are developing plans for programs to help alleviate economic problems growing out of the present changes in world trade, and many others, will welcome the cold facts about conservation farming and its practical values.

They are not likely to pay as much attention to somebody's opinions, as they are to clear-cut, factual, balance sheets.

HOLT AND MANIFOLD IN SOUTH AMERICA WRITE TO THE CHIEF

Letters to the Chief last week from C. B. Manifold and E. G. Holt indicated that both men would probably complete their work in South America during the latter part of February. Although both are now in Brazil, they are stationed at widely-separated parts of the country and are working on wholly different projects. So far their trails have not crossed. Mr. Manifold is in the jungles of northern Brazil along the Amazon River, searching for possible sites for rubber plantations, and Mr. Holt is in the coastal jungles of southern Brazil, collecting species of birds suspected of being the carriers of "jungle" yellow fever.

According to Mr. Manifold's letter to the Chief, "Wild rubber is a sort of a 'will-o'-the-wisp', it is always better farther on -- like fishing." He also made the comment that travel in the jungle is fine for taking off avoirdupois. He is finding that he decreases in circumference at the approximate rate of five pounds per belt hole.

Apparently none the worse off, physically, for his expeditions into the coastal jungle areas of southern Brazil, Mr. Holt said that he expected to complete his assignment for the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation shortly after the middle of February. According to additional reports which have reached the Chief, Mr. Holt's work has been highly successful and it is possible that he may have found the answer to a question that has baffled medical science for many years; that is, how does jungle yellow fever spread from one place to another widely-separated place without any apparent means of conveyance other than perhaps by birds, or other species of wildlife.

FARMERS CONTINUE WITH CONSERVATION PRACTICES AFTER AGREEMENTS EXPIRE

During the time demonstration projects and CCC Camp areas were being established in the earlier days of the Service, the question was frequently asked "Will farmers continue using soil conservation practices after the expiration of their five-year agreement?" In a letter to the Chief, Regional Conservator Harry E. Reddick apparently has found at least a partial answer to the question.

"During the first week of December," Reddick wrote, "efforts were concentrated on visiting farmers on compliance calls.. No differentiation was made between the farms on which the cooperative agreement was still in effect and those on which the agreement had expired. It was encouraging to note that although the farmers realized that they were no longer obligated to operate under the terms of the agreement entered into five years before, they still saw the benefits to be derived and felt the need for continuing all the practices contained in the plan of conservation operations. It was noticed that some farmers had better control systems established on their farms this fall than in any previous year."

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H. D. Abbot, Assistant to the Chief in charge of CCC Operations, will represent the SCS in contacts with R. F. Hendrickson, Department Director of Personnel, regarding a work program for conscientious objectors drafted under the Selective Service Act. Mr. Hendrickson was recently designated by the Secretary as the departmental officer to negotiate with the Selective Service Board and to coordinate inter-bureau and inter-departmental relations concerning the proposed civilian work program of soil conservation and reforestation for conscientious objectors.

CHIEF IS APPOINTED TO PAN AMERICAN COMMISSION

H. H. Bennett has been designated by Secretary Wickard, with the President's approval, to represent the Department on the newly-organized Pan American Soil Conservation Commission.

Mr. Bennett's appointment was announced by the State Department on February 11, in the following statement:

"The Eighth American Scientific Congress during the sessions held at Washington in May 1940 adopted resolutions recommending the establishment of a Pan American Resources Commission and a Pan American Soil Conservation Commission. Subsequently, the Governing Board of the Pan American Union authorized the creation of these new inter-American bodies and requested the governments of the American republics to designate their representatives on the respective Commissions.

"Under the arrangement approved by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, the Pan American Resources Commission will be charged with the responsibility of preparing an inventory of world natural resources and of formulating policies and programs designed to assure the conservation and prudent utilization of natural resources for the welfare of all nations. It is anticipated that the Pan American Soil Conservation Commission will take steps to encourage the expansion of soil conservation programs in the 21 American republics, as well as the exchange of trained personnel and technical information, with a view to effecting a coordinated approach to the conservation problem on a continental basis. The Governing Board of the Union has recommended that the Soil Conservation Commission be composed of the Ministers of Agriculture of the American republics or their designates.

"The President has approved the designation of the Honorable Frederic A. Delano,

COMMITTEE TO ISSUE SAFETY CERTIFICATES

Several acts of bravery on the part of SCS personnel, which have been called to the attention of the Safety Committee, have prompted that Committee to formulate plans for issuing a Safety Certificate in recognition of "performances beyond the line of ordinary duty."

The certificate design provides space to inscribe the name of the employee and the deed for which he is commended. The award will bear the signature of the Chief

Proper procedure in making recommendations for the Safety Certificate are embodied in Field Memorandum 981. The Safety Committee believes the award will serve as a needed instrument in recognition of acts of bravery which heretofore have been unacknowledged.

Members of the Safety Committee are N. R. Bear, chairman, Gordon Kinney, G. E. Ryerson, H. M. Salmon, G. H. Gilbertson, Glenn K. Rule, J. H. Stallings, and H. C. Mesch, secretary.

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W. R. Van Dersal addressed the Washington Chapter, Special Librarian Association, at its meeting February 11. His talk on "Scenario Sources" was followed by the showing of the SCS movie, "The Heritage We Guard."

Chairman of the National Resources Planning Board, as this Government's representative on the Pan American Resources Commission. With the approval of the President, Mr. Hugh H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, will serve as the designate of the Secretary of Agriculture on the Pan American Soil Conservation Commission."

Further details concerning the work of this commission will be given in a subsequent issue of SERVICE NEWS.

SCS ENGINEER TO MAKE CUBAN IRRIGATION SURVEY

SCS makes another direct contribution to hemispheric friendships in loaning H. G. Blaney, Region 10 irrigation engineer, to the Cuban government to study and make recommendations for the development or irrigation works on the island.

Mr. Blaney is en route to Havana where he will join a party of USDA specialists who will cooperate with Cuban officials in a survey of that island's agricultural resources. He expects to devote about six weeks to the irrigation phases of the survey.

The Department experts will give particular attention to a study of new crops which may be developed for export to the United States or other parts of the western hemisphere. The survey is connected with the general program of aid to Cuban agriculture proposed by the Cuban Economic Mission to the United States.

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J. H. Christ has been elected president of the Northwest Scientific Association. In connection with his new honor, Conservator Christ appeared on the Spokane Speaks radio program on January 29, and, at the invitation of the studio, discussed the work of SCS in that region as well as the research activities of the Association.

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So many requests have been made for the Secretary's Memorandum of December 9 entitled "USDA Clubs Contribute to Departmental Unity", the Office of Personnel has offered to furnish extra copies for distribution to Washington and field employees. Requests for the memorandum should be addressed to Leland Barrows, Chief Personnel Management Division.

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"Feed Crops as an Aid in Range Conservation" by Roy H. Gough appears in the February issue of *The Cattleman*.

CHIEF ISSUES CALL FOR MORE FIELD NEWS

Most constructive critic of Service News is H. H. Bennett. He wants to know why the News doesn't carry more items of interest from the field.

"Service News is intended to serve our staff in the whole vast area of Soil Conservation Service operations reaching across this continent and to Hawaii and Puerto Rico," Mr. Bennett says. "I would like to see every region represented in every issue of Service News by at least one item of interest concerning work on the land, new developments in research, assistance to other agencies, experiences with farmers and groups of farmers, organization and personnel, or anything else of general interest to the whole Service."

Service News certainly agrees. At least one pungent, newsy story from each region every issue would help us make a better paper.

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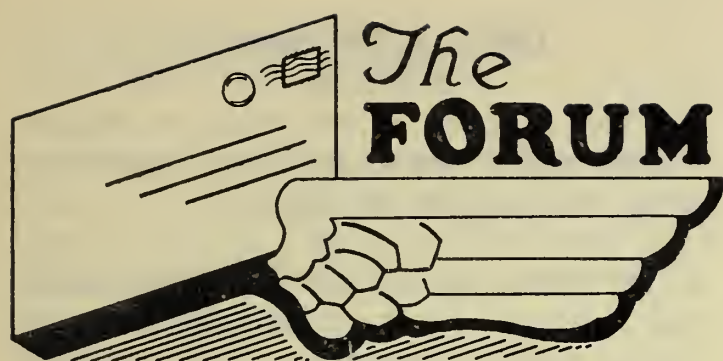
The Chief's proposed trip to South America has been postponed temporarily. He still plans to go, however, as soon as circumstances make it possible to do so.

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The SCS Central Board of Review is making a few revisions in instructions for the preparation of efficiency ratings. The revised instructions will soon be forwarded to the regional offices to be used as a guide for efficiency ratings to be made as of April 15.

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Flood Control operations on the Los Angeles River watershed constitute the first project to be undertaken in the new national flood control program. SCS, collaborating with FS and BAE, has completed preliminary examinations of 112 major watersheds, and detailed surveys are completed or under way in 42 of these watersheds.



EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: Although the name of only the general program under Title III was discussed in the last issue, the application of the program in particular areas has raised similar questions. The name given to a specific undertaking in a particular area in connection with the program has usually been a combination of some name representative of the locality, the name of the general program and the word "project".

Insofar as local color is concerned, the only problem has been to select a name which would identify the particular area clearly and briefly and avoid any local rivalries. The inclusion of the name of the general program, of course, makes the criticisms previously mentioned applicable. Some of them have also been directed against the use of the word "project" in the name. "Project" is felt to indicate some current "job" which eventually will be completed, whereas the continuous operations of "land use" are really involved. Apart from its being too indefinite to have much descriptive value, "project" is also felt to have lost even this little value through indiscriminate usage for many different purposes. Taken as a whole, moreover, the names for activities under Title III in particular areas have been found particularly objectionable on the ground of excessive length.

The advocates of "Rehabilitation Area", "Land Use Area", "Conservation Area" or "Land Reserve" as a substitute for "Land Utilization Project" would line up according to their views of the nature and purposes of the general program. Compromise on project names would be easier than on

the name for the program, however, since there is room for "projects" emphasizing different views, but the name of the program must reflect at least the view on which the major emphasis is to be placed.

B. H.

EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: Thanks for the blurb of January 18, Mary H. Sanders! Just another example of the fact that THE NEWS - particularly The Forum - is right up on its journalistic toes. But of course the citation belonged on the front jacket rather than inside amongst the underwear.

One thing embarrasses me, Mary: the inability of that - quote - "very fine editor" to return your favor in the columns of that - quote - "fine magazine." Policy permitting, I'd like to do a Jimmy Durante in SOIL CONSERVATION, eulogizing the more recent issues of SERVICE NEWS and their brilliant editor. (Seriously, you've worked wonders with the typography and the coverage.)

You mentioned letters. You need 'em; therefore, you take 'em. I hope you get scads and scads - fan mail, news items, brickbats - for letters are the red cells of a good live house paper. And should you continue to run short of letters, I personally know where you can get plenty at any time.

Wellington Brink.

- O -

Analysis of the December report of the SCS-CCC camp work shows the camps are becoming well integrated into the soil conservation district program. Omitting drainage camps, nearly half of the balance are doing some work for soil conservation districts located in 26 states. The division of man-days for December shows 29.4% of the work of all of the 391 camps operated by the SCS was devoted to district agreements.

C. R. ENLOW ATTENDS REVEGETATION MEETING

As a member of the Southern Great Plains Revegetation Committee, C. R. Enlow attended meetings in Amarillo, Tex., on January 22 when the committee reviewed the work of the past 2 years in establishing grass on retired lands in that area. The committee has been fostering experiments with different kinds of grasses, methods of seeding, and the improvement of grass strains which seem suited to the climatic conditions of the area.

Mr. Enlow also attended the Amarillo meetings of the Southern Great Plains Advisory Council - made up of representatives of the States of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas, and the Federal agencies operating in those states. From there he went to the Kansas State Experiment Station to enlist its support in developing agronomic recommendations for the use of farm planners. On February 6, Mr. Enlow was a guest at the Farm and Home Week of the Kansas State Agriculture College at Manhattan and gave a talk on "Adapting Grass Land Agriculture to Kansas Farms."

Mr. Enlow reports, incidentally, that, barring the unforeseen, Kansas may have one of the largest wheat crops on record. Eastern Kansas had 6 inches of rain during January - normal rainfall is about 1 inch. Farmers say that when they dig post-holes the water comes up to the top. They haven't seen anything like it in years.

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Miss Verna Mohagen will travel to Milwaukee, Wis., the last week in February to assist in setting up in Region 5 the new procedure for decentralizing certain authority in connection with personnel actions in the lower classifications. Region 5 is the second region to put the new plan into effect. Miss Mohagen helped to initiate the plan at Lincoln in December.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

Here are some of the bills of interest to SCS workers which have been introduced since the opening of Congress:

S. 842 by Mr. Nye, N. D.: Relating to the purchase of certain land for inclusion within the Beltrami Island Project, Minn.

H. R. 3156 by Mr. Downs, Conn.: To provide military training for members of the CCC.

H. R. 142 by Mr. Sumners, Tex.: Providing that U. S. employees called for jury service shall not be paid for such service but they shall not lose any salary or leave thereby.

S. 789 by Mr. McNary, Ore.: To promote sustained-yield forest management in order to assure continuous and ample forest products; secure benefits of forests in regulation of water supply, stream flow, soil erosion, etc.; and stabilize communities, forest industries, etc.

H. R. 3016 by Mr. Peterson, Ga.: To establish a national land policy and to provide homesteads free of debt for actual farm families.

H. R. 3023 by Mr. Gehrmann, Wis.: To enable farmers who are unable to pay emergency seed and feed loans in full when due to work out the amount due thereon.

H. R. 2806 by Mr. Fulmer, S. C.: To make the soil conservation and domestic allotment program permanent.

H. R. 2803 by Mr. Eliot, Mass.: To provide that certain U. S. employees inducted into the land and naval forces shall have classified civil-service status upon return to civilian employment.

H. R. 625 by Mr. Randolph, W. Va.: To establish a system of automatic salary increases within the Federal service.

(More next week)

REGION 5 HAS SERVICE TO KEEP TAB ON FLOODS

A flood reporting service initiated in Region 5 helps SCS and other agencies keep tab on floods. The 88 SCS-CCC camps, 21 demonstration projects, and some district offices are supplying the pertinent information to the regional office.

The service, which was developed by Roy E. Bennett and Frank P. Erichsen of the regional flood control survey staff, works something like this: When a field office learns of a flood in the work area or adjacent territory, a staff member goes out to locate and record a number of high-water marks, usually 20 to 25. He writes a complete report of the location of these marks with other information obtained locally, such as rainfall records, soil and cover conditions, flood damage, and newspaper accounts of the flood. The report and supplementary information are then sent to the regional office. The regional Nursery Division, at Winona, Minn., supplies metal tags to mark permanently the points of high water listed in the field office report.

The service proved particularly valuable for recording and describing high-water marks on many streams in Iowa and other parts of the region during numerous floods in 1940. It also will be useful in providing information to any agencies conducting flood control surveys on these watersheds. From the descriptions collected, it will be possible to reconstruct the flood pattern, to calculate flood damages and extent of area inundated, and to estimate discharges by the slope-area method. Thus the service is adding valuable data to hydrologic information for Region 5 at very little expense.

Copies of the reports of high-water marks are sent to offices of U. S. Army Engineers, U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Weather Bureau for their use and files. The Weather Bureau office at Des

SURVEY SHOWS CCC BOYS ARE MAKING GOOD IN SCS

Ex-CCC enrollees constitute 19½% of the supervisory personnel of the 391 CCC camps operated by the Soil Conservation Service, and nearly 9% of the 12,747 employees in the SCS family. These surprising percentages are concrete evidence that the training given CCC enrollees under the enrollee training program is well worthwhile.

A survey by the Washington personnel office shows that the grand total of ex-CCC enrollees rehired for Service jobs beyond the enrollee level is 1136. This total breaks down as follows: 284 employed on SCS rolls, 1 on LU, 851 on CCC as camp supervisory personnel, and in field offices.

The 851 in SCS camps are more than half of the total of 1583 ex-enrollees in all cooperating agencies, as recently announced by the CCC director.

The tabulation by regions, dividing ex-enrollees into those employed on CCC rolls as SCS camp supervisory personnel, on rolls other than CCC, the total, and the number of camps in each region, follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>SCS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No. Camps</u>
1	27	8	35	30
2	167	40*	207	64
3	128	15	143	51
4	137	78	215	72
5	226	23	249	87
6	56	23	79	25
7	39	27	66	17
8	32	45	77	22
9	25	19	44	14
10	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>
	851	285	1136	391

* Includes one LU employee.

Moines frequently publishes extracts from these reports in its monthly publication, "Climatological Data."

BRIEFS FROM SCS CAMPS

Herbert Richter, enrollee senior leader at Nebr.-7, won first prize in an art contest sponsored by the Omaha World Herald during National Art Week. He has recently sold six canvases and plans to enter art school this fall.

The two-year accident free record of Va.-18 brought the Southern District Safety Flag to the Gordonsville camp.

The several months accident free record at Mo.-8 was shattered this week when, in the heat of an exciting ping pong game, an enrollee dove for a difficult shot and broke his ankle.

Most of the armed forces gained by this week's enlistment of enrollees from SCS camps. The branches include the cavalry, National Guard, U. S. Maritime Service, and the Navy.

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"Agriculture in the Americas" - published by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations - made its debut last week in a goldenrod cover. Secretary Wickard wrote the foreword about "Our Job." The first issue of the magazine includes interesting articles about export and import commodities in general, the problem of rubber in particular, and the resources of Bolivia specifically.

The magazine will be published monthly. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy, or by subscription at the rate of 75 cents per year.

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Since the farm forestry program was initiated, forty-four projects have been set up in 33 States covering 20,000,000 acres. SCS technicians are helping farmers build up their woodlands, both for income production and erosion control.

FIELD MEMORANDA

Issued February 7 - 14

- 980 Timing of Purchases to Avoid Delay and Congestion. (Urges more even distribution of purchases over fiscal year.)
- 981 Safety Certificate for Performances beyond the Line of Ordinary Duty. (Procedure for submitting recommendations for Safety Certificate awards.)
- 982 Attendance at Meetings. (Transmits Secretary's Memorandum No. 885 which modifies, Department's policy in the limitation on number of bureau employees who may attend meetings at Government expense or at own expense.)
- 983 Instructions Relating to Regional and Work Unit Herberia.
- 984 Filling Field Positions at Approved Grades. (Effective immediately, all new positions created in field service must be filled at approved grades for positions of similar character.)
- 985 Cancellation of Cooperative Agreements Because of Default. (Procedure for handling cancellation cases.)

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The following new books are available for loan from the Service Library:

Baver, L. D., "Soil Physics".

Cheyney, E. G. and Schantz-Hansen, T., "This Is Our Land".

Clements, J. B. and Topham, P., "Water and the Land."

Elliott, C. N., "Conservation of American Resources."

Gabrielson, I. N., "Wildlife Conservation."